

R E M A R K S

The claim modifications submitted herein are being made to clarify the claims and require no substantial amount of additional work of the part of the PTO, as explained below.

Claim 21 is being changed to correct an obvious typographical error.

Claim 26 is being changed to conform it with claim 21 upon which it depends.

In claim 29, the binarizing means is being changed in the same way as this limitation was changed in claim 21 (as first amended).

In claim 31, the code reading means and the binarizing means are being changed in the same way as they were changed in claim 21. The minor changes being made to the threshold value calculating means avoid antecedent problems.

Claim 36 is also being changed in the same way as the changes made to claim 21 (as first amended). The other changes are self-explanatory.

Claim 38 has been modified to correct an obvious antecedent problem with respect to claim 36 upon which it depends.

Claim 40 contains minor corrections of a self-explanatory nature.

Claim 42 has been slightly revised to improve its wording.

Regarding claim 43, the word "screen" had been removed from the other claims, but inadvertently retained in claim 43. Thus, it is being replaced by --image-- as was done in the other claims.

The need for this Amendment has been explained in detail above.

The proposed amended claims require no additional search or examination because the claim changes are merely to clarify the wording in a manner which is readily apparent even upon a brief review.

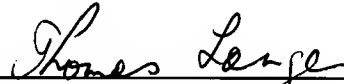
The claims are patentable because none of the proposed changes affects the patentably distinct features of the allowed claims.

These proposed changes were not presented earlier because they were discovered upon a thorough final review of the claims which was made after allowance.

Based on the above, entry of this Amendment is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner feel that only a portion of this Amendment is suitable for entry, or if he has any questions, comments or suggestions, he is respectfully requested to

telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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